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Bakeneko

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This article is part of the "Teien" Expanded Canon. Unless you are a *Neververse Sapkowski Scholar*, enjoy but do **not** edit.

Information

Class

Demon

Variations

None

Occurrence

Very rare

Immunity

Fire

Susceptibility

Demon Oil

Loot

Green mutagen
Monster brain
Monster bone
Monster claw
Monster eye
Monster ear
Monster hair
Monster heart
Monster liver
Monster stomach
Monster tongue
Bakeneko ear
Bakeneko eye
Bakeneko saliva

A Bakeneko (**化け猫**, "changed cat") is a demon that possesses people.

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Folklore

Common folk falsely believes that Bakeneko are house cats that have grown too old or too fat.

This may be attributed to the rare times a house cat became possessed by a demon or a familiar of a powerful spellcaster, leading to strange behavior like licking blood, making odd sounds, attacking people more frequently or even speaking. But such cases are unrelated to true Bakeneko.

Those that know that Bakeneko are a form of posession often theorize that they only seek out those that have a hole in their heart, as in, suffer emotionally due to some tragedy.

Facts

Bakeneko are entities from beyond our world, arriving in ways not properly understood yet. They either can only posess certain people or are drawn to certain people's characteristics, as most known cases involved people who were under some kind of stress or suffered a loss recently.

Possession happens instantly, yet manifestation does not. Those whose body have been invaded often reported dreaming of a cat with glowing eyes which offered 'help'. Only after severals weeks, or even months, does the Bakeneko take active control of its new host, usually while they sleep. The host body is turned into a combination of the two, the regular human ears 'disappearing' while new cat ears appear on the person's head, fingernails and fingers turning into overly long sharp claws and glowing yellow cat eyes appearing instead of regular human eyes. Their hair, regardless what color it is usually, turns white while transformed. Bakeneko, in this "half-form", have limited access to mystical powers, such as turning invisible, greater strength, greater endurance, levitation (but not flight), resistant skin and limited telepathy.

Why Bakeneko posess humans is unknown. Some scholars suggest that it may be simply boredom, or rather, the search for new sensations, as some posessed have been noted to persue more proactive lifestyles and hedonistic activites (sometimes even in their half-form). While they are demons, not all Bakeneko are outright hostile against humanity. Some pursue their own goals, hiding in their hosts during the day and act at night, though some posess their hosts even during daylight hours.

Some hypothesize that Bakeneko, who have mingled with their host long enough, may be able to take on the form of a full monstrous cat (most likely the size of a panther or jaguar) but such have not been observed.

Bakeneko seem able to see through the eyes of cats, to some degree. If they must make some kind of contract or bind the cat to their will in a way is unknown, but some Witchers have reported that Bakeneko could see far beyond what their eyes should be able to because cats were present and watched from afar.

Dogs, somehow, can tell that a person is posessed, and will bark in anger or cower in fear when in the presence of a Bakeneko possessed human.

Combat tactics

Bakeneko, in their half-form, act very much like a mix of a magical combatant and an animal. If possible, they will pounce on their attacker, force them to the ground and bite their neck or throat with fatal intention. If faced with a strong enemy they use their illusion magic to become invisible, in order to strike from behind. Their claws are strong enough to parry steel and can break through most traditional armor worn by Ashigaru.

If the Bakeneko finds itself at a loss, or is so inclined, they might attempt to bargain to avoid their destruction.

Gallery

A bakeneko in "half-form".

The Witcher: Ronin - Teien

Races	• Human • Mutant • Doppler
Professions	• Artisan • Bard • Doctor • Mage • Man-at-Arms • Merchant • Noble • Peasant • Priest • Rogue • Monk • Witcher
World	• Timeline • Faiths & Religions • Teien
Concepts	• Character Creation • Crafting • Skills • Unique Skill Branches • Magic
Power Groups	• Hyakki Yagyō • Hokuren

VIPs	Black Shogun

Bestiary	• Kappa • Yuki Onna • Tatsu • Tengu • Sarugami • Yamanba • Yukinko • Nekomata • Maneki neko • **Bakeneko**

Locations

Northern Teien	• Kaijinzan • The Spring Bird • Shirakabe • Yugawa • Tsuranami • Okitsune • Tachihara • Kuroishi • Kanetani

Southern Teien	• Kurotani • Nogitsune • Sodenji • Isayama • Tsukishiba • Hanekoma • Takihana

Elsewhere	Golden Bridge